



**Rose Kennedy Greenway Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – 5:30 pm
185 Kneeland Street, 1st Floor, Boston**

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present In Person: Alli Achtmeyer, Mark Boyle, Kathryn Burton, Robertstone Goodridge, Roz Gorin, Carmine Guarino, Doug Husid, Deniz Johnson, Karen Johnson, Rebecca Lee, Bryant McBride, Robyn Reed, Bud Ris, John Shea, Kim Sherman Stamler, Brad Snyder, David Wilkinson.

Board Members Present On Phone: Jim Kalustian

Board Members Absent: Susanne Lavoie, Tom O'Brien

RFKGC Staff Present: Alan Auger, Jesse Brackenbury, Keelin Caldwell, Tracey Cooke, David Dalena, Rachel Lake, Samantha McGinnis, Rebecca McKevez, Eileen Ong, Alex Pittman, Robert Stigberg, Cheryl Sullivan and Erin Webb.

Non Board Members Present In Person: David Kelleher (AAF CPA), James Cassetta, (WORK Inc.)

Open Session

Greenway Board Vice Chair Kathryn Burton called the meeting to order in Open Session with a quorum present at 5:35pm.

1. Vice Chair Burton called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2019 meeting of the Board of Directors. **Upon a motion made by David Wilkinson, and seconded by Bryant McBride, the minutes were unanimously approved.**
2. Mr. Brackenbury discussed the nomination of John Shea as chair of the development committee. The committee has long been chaired by Kathryn Burton, who steered the committee through times of transition and helped raise considerable funds for the Conservancy, most notably for the Carolyn Lynch Garden and the biggest Gala of The Greenway's history. Mr. Brackenbury thanked Ms. Burton for her service and introduced John Shea. **Upon a motion made by Brad Snyder and seconded by Mr. McBride, the motion to nominate Mr. Shea as the chair of the Development Committee was unanimously approved.**

3. Bud Ris introduced Form 990 & Form PC. FARMC had reviewed these forms in their most recent meeting and on behalf of the committee, Mr. Ris explained to the board that the forms contained useful descriptions of The Greenway and its activities during 2018 and revealed no surprises about the Conservancy's financial situation. Mr. Ris noted that a downturn in the endowment at the end of 2018 had since recovered and that the audit was clean.

David Kelleher from AAFCPAs was present to answer questions about the forms and to discuss a new change in the law which taxes employers for pre-tax benefits provided to employees. AAFCPAs has written to legislators in protest of this new law, but until action is taken on the state level, The Greenway must pay taxes on employee pre-tax commuter benefits.

Ms. Burton thanked the finance staff for their efforts. **Upon a motion made by Deniz Johnson, and seconded by Mr. Ris, the 990 was unanimously approved.**

4. Mr. Brackenbury presented the board with information about a proposed public art acquisition by well-known Nigerian-British artist Yinka Shonibare. Under the agreement, the Conservancy will pay Yinka's studio £130,000 for the production of a sculpture to be displayed on The Greenway in 2020. The studio will retain ownership of the piece but sell the piece via auction upon de-installation and reimburse the Conservancy from the proceeds of the sale. While there is no guarantee of a sale, Yinka's most recent work has sold for millions. In addition to the sculpture, Yinka will be doing the Greenway Wall mural in 2020. Mr. Brackenbury notes that only private funds and competitive grants are ever used for public art on The Greenway, but as the expenditure is over \$100K, board approval is required. Ms. Lee asked about plans for programming around this installation. Mr. Brackenbury described The Greenway's past efforts and future plans. **Upon a motion made by David Wilkinson, and seconded by Brad Snyder, the Board unanimously approved the motion to approve payment of £130,000 to Yinka Shonibare.**

Mr. Brackenbury described to the board the currently open Request for Proposals for the basic maintenance contract. Mr. Ris noted that it is a fiduciary responsibility of the Conservancy to put this large contract out for bid regularly and to keep issues of quality and reliability in mind. A small working group of board members has been looking at this issue. Mr. Brackenbury was seeking the authority to negotiate and to find final budget amounts. **Upon a motion made by Bryant McBride, and seconded by Deniz Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the motion to authorize Mr. Brackenbury to negotiate and execute a contract with one of the two RFP process finalists for as close to the 2019**



budgeted amount (\$700K) as possible, but not to exceed the budgeted amount by more than 10% (i.e., \$770K).

Kim Sherman Stamler joined the meeting at 6pm

James Cassetta, President and CEO of Work, Inc. discussed with the board his hopes that WORK Inc. would continue to hold the basic maintenance contract. Mr. Cassetta described the history of the relationship and their RFP submission. Board members discussed the importance of the RFP process and thanked Mr. Cassetta for his presentation.

5. Director of Development Alex Pittman and Mr. Ris presented a draft mission statement crafted by a small working group of board members, including Ms. Achtmeyer, Mr. Goodridge, Mr. Ris and Mr. Shea. The group presented the first sentence to the board for approval as the official mission statement: “The Conservancy has sole responsibility for managing all aspects of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, including horticulture, programming, public art, maintenance, and capital improvements.” The staff will work on accompanying text about vision and values. **After a motion made by Mr. Shea, and seconded by Mr. Wilkinson, the Board unanimously approved the proposed mission statement.**
6. Ms. Pittman provided an update on Fundraising activities. She showed a list of sponsors for Gala, noting high levels of board support, and expressed gratitude to Ms. Achtmeyer for co-chairing the event. The board discussed possibilities for additional sponsors for Glow in the Park, a more informal event the evening after Gala. Ms. Pittman also discussed the many in-kind gifts The Greenway has received this year, plans for a spring appeal, and introduced David Dalena, the Conservancy’s new Senior Development Officer.
7. Director of Maintenance and Capital Bob Stigberg provided an update on Maintenance activities. The Conservancy recently acquired two new electric vehicles, bringing the fleet to three, purchased with capital funds from MassDOT. The shipping containers behind the building now have electricity. Maintenance staff have been assisting with public art installations, including Karl Unnash and Augmented Reality. Updates to the Rings Fountain are anticipated to be completed by Memorial Day.



8. Karen Johnson gave an investment update on behalf of the Investment Committee. The Conservancy currently has two providers, and while its investment profile is low risk, the current volatile environment may result in returns being slightly below par. The Committee is considering hiring an Investment Manager.

9. Mr. Brackenbury provided the board with Greenway updates. New City regulations require that everyone asking the government to take action on an issue, however small, register as a lobbyist, and accordingly, Rachel Lake has registered on behalf of the Conservancy.

Brad Snyder left the meeting at 7:05

The design and community process for Parcel 2, a small area at the northern end of The Greenway, is beginning shortly under the direction of the BPDA. Construction procurement and oversight will be conducted by the Conservancy. It is hoped that the park will open in 2020. The BID Enhancements Committee has commenced meeting and their \$500K annual fundings will begin with the start of their fiscal year on July 1, 2019.

Deniz Johnson left the meeting at 7:15

Mr. Brackenbury reminded the board of the initiatives to celebrate The Greenway's tenth year, including new public art, a meadow, beehives, banners along The Greenway, the Rings Fountain upgrades and a commissioned dance piece. In staffing notes, Mr. Brackenbury noted that a new Volunteer Coordinator has started, a new Programs Coordinator is due to start shortly, and hiring for a Project Coordinator for the Maintenance department should happen soon. Samantha McGinnis, who co-leads Programs, will be departing at the end of June; the Conservancy has hired an Assistant Director. A Park Ranger position is open. The position of Senior Maintenance Technician remains open.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board Meeting was adjourned, upon a motion made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Husid, and a unanimous vote in favor was held at 7:19pm.